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# United States Department of Agriculture,

## DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR 168.

Contribution from the Bureau of Biological Survey,  
E. W. NELSON, Chief.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA ON THE ALASKA GAME LAW, 1920.<sup>1</sup>

#### CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
Introduction.....	1	Walruses.....	10
Game estimates.....	5	Hair seals.....	10
Game and fur-bearing animals.....	5	Migratory birds.....	11
Moose.....	6	Nonmigratory game birds.....	11
Sheep.....	6	Game wardens.....	12
Goats.....	6	Territorial bounties.....	12
Deer.....	7	Mount McKinley National Park.....	13
Brown bears.....	7	Bird and mammal reserves.....	14
Caribou.....	8	Alaska Historical Museum.....	14
Reindeer.....	10	Appendix.....	16

TERRITORY OF ALASKA,  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,  
*Juneau, November 27, 1920.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith my third annual report on the administration of the Alaska game law (act approved May 11, 1908, as subsequently amended) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1920.<sup>1</sup>

Respectfully,

THOMAS RIGGS, Jr., *Governor.*

HON. EDWIN THOMAS MEREDITH,  
*Secretary of Agriculture.*

#### INTRODUCTION.

It hardly seems necessary to continue to urge the enactment of a better game law for Alaska. Governors, Delegates to Congress, and sportsmen familiar with Alaskan conditions have for years pointed

<sup>1</sup> The publication of this report by the Department of Agriculture does not carry with it the indorsement by the department of all of Gov. Riggs's views and recommendations. Similar statement should have been made in connection with the publication of Gov. Riggs's report for 1919 (Department Circular 88), but through an unfortunate typographical error the words "of all" were omitted.

out the need of a revision, but in every attempted move for betterment they have been blocked by unthinking opposition, influenced by powerful, sentimental but ignorant, propaganda. Lurid tales have been spread broadcast that the people of Alaska are bent upon the extermination of Alaskan game and that only through the heroic efforts of the conservationists have they been prevented from this. They point with pride to the laws, for the enforcement of which there are practically no wardens; to the forty or fifty thousand square miles of unprotected game, bird, and fish reserves; to the law written by the present Governor of Alaska for the creation of the Mount McKinley National Park, for the maintenance and development of which no appropriation can be procured from Congress. For a fact, the conservationists have done nothing but befog the situation. Alaska has suffered and is still suffering so severely from ill-advised so-called conservation measures that the average Alaskan sees red when the very word "conservation" is mentioned. Retroactive conservation has ruined so many people and has so retarded Territorial growth, at one time well under way, that Alaskans now demand, and will be satisfied with nothing less than, the same consideration which has been shown in the past to other territories wherein the citizens, presumably equal in intelligence to, and imbued with the same love of country as, citizens of the States, have been given a voice in self-government.

The three points principally in controversy are sale of legally killed game in regions where a domestic meat supply is not readily obtainable; protection of the dangerous and predatory brown and grizzly bears south of latitude 62°; and the Territorial eagle-bounty law.

#### SALE OF GAME.

Now, what is happening? People will have meat to eat and if they can not take the time to go out and kill it, they will buy it, the same as many of my wealthy conservationist friends illegally buy whisky which is not necessary to life, and think nothing of it; in fact, they rail at the law which prohibits them from exercising what they consider a constitutional right and look upon it as an infringement upon personal liberty. The nonsale of game can not be enforced in remote Alaska unless an army of wardens is provided; nor should it be. There are less than 5,000 whites and natives in Alaska dependent upon game for a meat supply to a certain extent, and a proper use of the amount of meat required by them would in nowise affect the supply.

Those who attack the practice of the sale of game in remote districts and wish the law changed in this particular, probably have slight acquaintance with the law as written, for it lies within the province of the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit such sale by

regulation. Fortunately, we have never had a secretary who has been so narrow-minded as to do this. It seems absolutely impossible for a person who has never been in Alaska to understand Alaskan conditions. The average, well-meaning but meddlesome sentimentalist can not visualize Alaska except in terms of his immediate environment with railroads, wagon roads, and trails running everywhere; game wardens carefully watching each hunter; supply houses within at least a day's travel; in fact, he sees Alaska as he sees Colorado or Montana or Idaho. He does not see a country of vast distances untraversed by any easy method of transportation, the great swamps where pack trains mire down, the impassable mountain ranges, the deep and gloomy forests through which the pioneer must hew his way. He can not and will not see these things. He hears only the cry of those living in ease and comfort and with avidity signs any petition placed before him to protect something he knows nothing about, and in so doing thinks he is rendering unselfish aid to the cause of conservation by putting himself on record against what has been put up to him evilly and falsely as wanton slaughter of living animals.

The hoofed game of Alaska is in no immediate danger of extermination. I do not claim that there is any more regard for the game laws if they can be evaded than there is in, say, New York State, but I do most distinctly denounce as untrue the statement that "all Alaskans wish to kill game wherever they want to and whether they need it or not." Throughout the length and breadth of Alaska there is the most decided feeling that game must be conserved for legitimate use. With the exception of no more than the average percentage of game hogs, there is always a great feeling against any useless killing, and if the Legislature of Alaska should be given control, there would be sane and stringent laws, better enforced and more cheerfully obeyed than any laws promulgated by self-chosen champions of wild life.

For lack of appropriations for wardens and their travel expenses, no properly directed, efficient force can be built up. Under the present system each warden must patrol an area greater than the State of New York and to one warden is given a district as large as the State of Montana. No wonder then that one hears of instances of violations of game laws, and it is these violations which have given rise to unthinking, eastern opposition.

Because of my known stand for all the rights of citizenship for Alaskans, it has been threatened that any attempted move for new game laws will be blocked in the Congress of the United States as long as I remain governor. This attitude is most childish and silly. Because X has certain ideas that do not agree with those of Y and because X does not like Y and Y does not like X, then Z must suffer.



## PROTECTION OF BROWN BEARS.

Probably the most serious difference of all is on the question of protection for brown bears. Brown bears are a menace to development. They are not the amiable animal depicted by their advocates. On the contrary, they are ferocious, predatory beasts that destroy game, fish, caches, and human beings. They are an unnecessary danger to the prospector, hunter, trapper, stock raiser, or farmer. They should be eliminated. To mention many specific instances of destruction and unprovoked attack on men by brown bears is at this time unnecessary; suffice it to say that I have a large file of accounts of the depredations of brown bears and photographs of the mangled bodies of the victims of unprovoked attacks. Only one death this year has been reported to me as a result of unprovoked attacks by brown bears although there have been a considerable number of such attacks.

The lovers of wild life state that the Alaskan brown bears are peculiar to Alaska and the species is unknown elsewhere; they wish to preserve the unique species. Brown bears can not be entirely exterminated, but their number should be so reduced as to minimize their danger. I advocate not only the removal of all restrictions covering them, but a bounty for their destruction. I also believe that protection to brown bears can be found unconstitutional.

## EAGLE-BOUNTY LAW.

The third point of dispute is over the territorial eagle-bounty law. Alaskans see in the agitation for Congressional action to set aside the Territorial law a move on the part of the ultraconservationists, at whose hands the Territory has suffered so cruelly, to restrict further the powers of local legislation. The eagle has been reduced in accessible localities through the bounty law and beneficial results have been reported. Eagles can not be exterminated in Alaska and the agitation is ill advised from the standpoint of conservation, for, should any law of the Territory, enacted in accordance with the organic act, be set aside by Congress, there will be a veritable crusade not only against eagles, but also against all laws of so-called conservation.

In fact, the whole method and attitude of nonresidents toward Alaska game laws and toward Alaskans has been most unfortunate and has done much more harm than good. Alaskans now will not compromise on any game laws, but demand entire Territorial control. Further restriction will increase the difficulty of securing convictions for violations of game laws. The people of Alaska are not unreasonable, but like all other Americans they deem it their right to be heard on all matters affecting their own welfare and the welfare of everything within the borders of Alaska.

## GAME ESTIMATES.

In my report for 1919, I endeavored to make a rough estimate of the game animals of Alaska in certain localities. The estimate entailed an enormous amount of work to be tabulated in a very small space. I shall not attempt to revise all these figures, but will leave them until more and conclusive data have been accumulated.

## GAME AND FUR-BEARING ANIMALS.

Under the act of Congress approved May 31, 1920, jurisdiction over the land fur-bearing animals was transferred from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Agriculture. The bureau in direct charge of all wild-animal life with the exception of sea mammals is now the Bureau of Biological Survey, which is the proper bureau of the Government, if control is to remain vested in Federal authority. The present chief of the bureau has my entire confidence, and our disagreements are mainly over the question of a centralized government in Washington versus that of a democracy. I am confident that the bureau will be governed in all its actions by only the highest motives wherein the rights, privileges, and desires of Alaskans will be taken into consideration and carefully weighed.

The fur-bearing animals of the Territory do not receive, nor have they ever received, proper protection. There are of course open and close seasons, but, as a matter of fact, the publishing of a close season is rather farcical, as there is no way of finding out whether a lone trapper perhaps a hundred miles from the nearest post office is taking fur legally or illegally. Fortunately, nature has furnished the fur bearers with a close season much more effective than a handmade one, during which time it is unprofitable to take unprime furs. Regulations, however, regarding the sale of unprime skins, taken during nature's close season, are possible to enforce to a certain extent. Fur traders should be obliged to tag each skin with the name of the trapper from whom bought and attach this information to every shipping manifest; every skin lacking all necessary information to be subject to confiscation. By being able to trace every skin to the trapper, many instances of the violation of the law could be dealt with. I should exempt the less valuable furs, such as muskrats, weasels, and squirrels from the above requirements.

One of the greatest menaces to the fur bearers is the use of poison by unscrupulous trappers. Already in a number of districts, formerly among the best producers of fur, there are practically no carnivorous fur-bearers left. The fur wardens of the Department of Agriculture should make use of the Territorial law regarding the selling of poison and take appropriate action.

Five-year close seasons have been designated during which it is illegal to take sea otters, beavers, and martens. Unless these regu-

lations are enforced better in the future than they have been in the past, they will have little effect, although beavers are reported on the increase in certain localities. It is reported to me that some traders are buying the illegally taken skins and storing them until the season is once again opened, or that shipments are constantly being made with other merchandise. A number of seizures of furs have been made by deputy marshals and game wardens and some of the more important cases are now in court. It would be of great benefit to the service if the proceeds from the sale of confiscated skins could be turned into a protective fund and become available for expenditure.

Sea otters still remain under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Fisheries. The close season on sea otters has been extended to November 1, 1925.

#### MOOSE.

On the Kenai Peninsula moose are increasing. There is an excess number of bulls. The scrub bulls should be reduced in number. It is quite natural that a sportsman should not wish to kill a small bull, and in consequence it is the undesirable specimens to which is given the restocking of the herds. There is no great change in the number of moose in the various game districts except along the upper Copper River, where they seem to be less numerous than in previous years, and in the Yukon Valley, where there is a decided increase, although on account of salmon shortage they were extensively hunted during the winter.

#### SHEEP.

Residents of the White River country report an unusual number of crippled sheep and blame it to snap shooting by sportsmen who will not take the trouble to hunt down a wounded animal. Sheep are reported decreasing in the Nabesna and White River countries. On the Kenai Peninsula they are reported to be considerably on the increase. In the Mount McKinley Park there seems to be no change. Because of salmon shortage in the Kantishna River, an unusual amount of game was of necessity utilized. In the Nutzotin Mountains an almost entire absence of lambs is reported. For this condition the blame is placed on eagles and wolves.

#### GOATS.

An attempt was made by the Bureau of Biological Survey, through the use of donated funds, to capture a number of goats and release them on Admiralty Island. The experiment was unsuccessful, but another attempt is to be made this coming winter. Goats are not hunted to any extent and are holding their own. From the upper Chitina come reports of a great many kids having been killed by eagles, and one man reports having found the skulls of five kids in an aerie.



## DEER.

Deer, still in numbers, are indigenous to southeastern Alaska. From my own observations I believe deer are steadily on the decrease, although there is much disagreement over this statement. On some of the islands of the Alexander Archipelago wolves and bears do great damage and wolves have recently taken to crossing from the mainland to Douglas Island during the extreme low tides. The principal cause of deer depletion, to my mind, however, is not a natural one, but results from unseasonal killings by the fishing fleets. In the spring of the year a great number of fishing boats come to Alaska from Puget Sound. The fishermen practically all carry rifles and seem to kill every animal in sight. As it is the does and fawns which frequent the beaches during the fishing season, reproduction of species is seriously interfered with. There are six or seven principal rendezvous for fishermen, and during the open season a warden should be stationed at each of these congregating places.

On the islands with straight coast lines deer seem to be increasing over last year, although not so quickly as desired; while where there are bays and inlets they are being killed in unwarranted numbers both by fishermen and natives.

## BROWN BEARS.

The following are typical of the many reports on file in my office of depredations by brown bears:

November 10, 1919, Mrs. Nellie Neill, Glacier Creek, heard a noise in a shed near her house in which she had a pet black bear cub; she ran to the shed and found that the cub had been killed and partly disemboweled by a large brown bear. The bear chased her back to her cabin, reaching her just as she slammed the door and broke her little finger. Mrs. Neill then took a gun and killed the brown bear.

September 23, 1920, Charlie James, a native boy, 19 years old, while hunting deer in company with another native near Hooniah Sound, was suddenly attacked, without warning, by a female brown bear with cub. The bear started to drag the boy uphill, and before his companion could get in a shot serious injuries were inflicted. The boy has not yet recovered.

In 1914 King Thurman had his entrails torn out by a brown bear on the Chickallan River. He died shortly after.

In 1916 Mr. Peterson, of Hope, had his skull crushed by a brown bear on Indian Creek.

Otto Bergman, of Seward, had his ear bitten off by a brown bear at Mile 4 of the railroad, and was otherwise cut up.

June 7, 1920, A. H. Twitchell, Flat, wired "A grizzly bear got into my herd June 7, 1920, and killed one female reindeer and wounded or crippled another female. Please charge four reindeer to the grizzly bear account."

August, 1912, William Royden had killed a deer which he was carrying to the beach in Rodman Bay. He was attacked by a brown bear with two cubs and very badly bitten; when almost unconscious the bear left him and, partly crawling and partly walking, he finally managed to reach the beach, five days later, where he was rescued by a passing boat. There were 83 wounds on his body; part of his scalp was torn away

and his skull punctured by the bear's teeth. The attack was absolutely unprovoked. Photographs on file in the Governor's office.

Clarence Thompson, a rigger and logger employed by the Falcon Mining Co., at Falcon Bay on Chichagof Island, while out hunting was suddenly charged by a brown bear, of whose presence he was unaware. Thompson had time to shoot only twice, both shots proving ineffective, when the bear was upon him. He was struck twice, and knocked down, sustaining a fractured skull. He made his way to the beach, where searchers found him the next morning and rushed him to a doctor, but despite all aid he died that night. (Apr. 23, 1920.)

James Burrows, game warden, Kantishna, reports the killing of cow and calf moose by a brown bear on the Clearwater. He shot the bear while it was still feeding on the carcasses.

Cache robberies are of most frequent occurrence in bear districts. I have had my own caches destroyed by bears.

The above extracts are taken at random from a large file of similar instances. The Alaskan Fish and Game Club has a file equally as large.

One of the most interesting criticisms of brown bears received comes from Charles Klontech, the native game warden at Sitka. In his title by "other flying animals" he refers to eagles, gulls, and *fur seals*. It may be necessary to explain that there is a bag limit of three brown bears. His letter is reproduced as written, as follows:

#### THINGS THE BEAR AND OTHER FLYING ANIMALS DOE.

1. (Bear) will tell what the Alaska Brown bear doe. Bear was all right to men. Bear is pretty nearly like human beane he puts up fish for his winter use, this is why he stay in his den for 4½ months with all his put up, also deer meat with fish. And when they come out of their den, then the bear is dangerous and harmful he look for some birds to catch and also deer or men, anything comes in his way that will be his game. And this is why I dont want this 3 Bear to be killed, the Bear is plentiful. Now suppose they are 4 bear walking, what will the man doe shall he let the 4th Bear go? Or the 4th one to eat him up? It is impossible to do that, because if you give him a chance that animal is going to get you if you do not kill him, therefor you can not let the 4th one go. Well Gentlemen I have understood how the law is written about the game, as it says every hunter should kill 3 bear in a season. I will ask you whether you value a human's life or the bear's, I do not value a dangerous animal's life, like I do a human's life, I am talking about this bear, because the law is written that person should not be killed, and see, how much nurve this bear hase to disobey the law of United States, I look at it this way, that the bear is disobeying the law so the only salvation will be for the people is to kill off all the Bear in a country, that will be a great releaf for every hunter, and also will be good for the prospectors, I do not understand that bear could kill a person, there is a boy got torn up by the bear, this fall, you just ask him, and how he got hurt, he will tell you all of it, so there is a witness here in Sitka when the boy was in dangerous his name is Mr. H. P. Bailey, so Gentlemen there is more bad about bear than good so I wish that the law will strongly look into this matter of bear, So this will be all about the bear a while.

#### CARIBOU.

Never before have the migratory caribou been reported in such overwhelming numbers. What I last year called the Ketchumstock herd has practically been proved *not* to be a part of the interna-

tional herd and its route of migration probably does not cross the Yukon River, its main range being confined to the area lying between the Yukon and Tanana Rivers, with an eastern boundary formed by the Yukon and White Rivers. A theory is that about July 1 caribou start to congregate in the Goodpaster country and about August 1 start north to join the international herd, which crosses the Yukon near Eagle. A part of this herd irregularly migrates as far south as the Wrangell Mountains. My former estimate of 100,000 as the number of animals in this herd is probably not less than four times too small. Estimates made to this office place its size anywhere from 500,000 to 3,000,000.

Caribou have been reported near Fairbanks in such numbers that trains have been delayed for half an hour before being able to proceed across the path of migration.

The game warden watching the migration noted three distinct types of caribou which he classed as follows:

- No. 1. Extra large, very fat, gray, with flat horns. Bulls would dress about 250 pounds.
- No. 2. Extra large, very fat, dark color, with round horns. Bulls would dress about 250 pounds.
- No. 3. Small, very poor, small horns, resembling reindeer. Bulls would dress about 150 pounds.

The warden thinks that the last class may be escaped reindeer, as one animal was taken which had a cleft in the ear similar to an earmark. I hardly think it possible that reindeer could have found their way so far east as to join the Ketchumstock herd, nor is there any report of spotted deer in the migration.

The Northern herd is reported to have been largely hunted by natives on account of the almost total failure of the salmon fishing in the Yukon River and its tributaries. This herd receives absolutely no protection.

Of the nonmigratory herds, the only reports received are on the caribou inhabiting the Mount McKinley Park region. The herd is undoubtedly on the increase.

Subsequent to the fiscal year, the cold-storage barge destined for Fairbanks was frozen in on the lower Tanana River. Had it not been for the great number of caribou traveling near the town, the health of the community would have been seriously affected. This is a good instance of the necessity of a pliable game law. Had Alaska a law similar to that of the Yukon Territory, under regulation a sufficient number of caribou could have been taken to serve the immediate needs of the camp.



### REINDEER.

The reindeer industry is assuming gratifying proportions. There are now over 200,000 reindeer in the Territory and, as it is estimated that a herd will double itself in three years and still allow the marketing of all surplus steers, it is a matter of easy reckoning to show that before many years have elapsed, Alaska will furnish an important part of the meat supply of the United States.

With the increase of the herds, the allocation of herding areas becomes important. A leasing law is advocated, but with this I am not in entire accord. There is such a thing as going lease crazy. My personal belief is that the public range should be allotted to reindeer growers without charge, subject only to the land laws of the United States. We must guard against land monopoly by lease. Before any law is passed, a thorough investigation should be made covering all conditions accompanying the reindeer industry.

Reindeer in certain localities are subject to some parasitical diseases. The Bureau of Biological Survey has established a station at Unalakleet in charge of competent veterinarians for the purpose of studying such diseases and advising as to their eradication. Food moss reproduction on the ranges will be studied as well as scientific breeding methods. This and similar advisory work undertaken by the bureau will be of the highest value and is exactly in accord with my concept of what should truly be a function of the bureau. Alaska needs and appreciates the study and advice of the scientific bureaus of the Government.

At present reindeer growing is largely confined to the Seward Peninsula and the lower Kuskokwim River, but there are immense areas in northern Alaska suitable for reindeer grazing which will eventually be utilized when better transportation is afforded.

### WALRUSES.

Walruses are game animals—the law says so—but they are game animals exceedingly difficult to protect, as a large part of the time they are on the fringe of ice beyond the three-mile limit of territorial waters. While great numbers of walruses are seen early in spring along the rim of the ice pack, still the herds have greatly decreased since Nelson first noted them in 1881. Walruses should be protected for the benefit of the natives of both Alaska and Siberia by international agreement, as the demand for ivory is causing a great annual slaughter of these game animals.

### HAIR SEALS.

Hair seals, along with other aquatic fur bearers, are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce. They serve a most useful purpose in some districts in furnishing the natives with many



of the necessities of life, while in others they are a distinct nuisance and should be eliminated. On the Copper and Stikine Rivers they destroy vast numbers of salmon. It is estimated that there are nearly 2,000 hair seals in the Copper River delta, where they are a contributing factor to salmon depletion. Where seals hurt industry they should be killed off; in other places they should be protected.

#### MIGRATORY BIRDS.

Migratory birds are everywhere reported on the increase. The migratory-bird treaty act has had an undoubted effect on the increase of all waterfowl through the elimination of spring shooting, coupled with the decreased fall shooting in both Canada and the United States during the war, when many of the sportsmen of both countries were in military service.

Little violation of the law has been reported to me. The birds are all well protected by nature and by climate. On the Yukon River delta, when the birds are molting, the natives indulge in a certain amount of unseasonal driving, which is most reprehensible, in view of the fact that there is an unprotected bird reserve of some 20,000 square miles covering the delta, and besides the practice is contrary to law, but the custom of centuries is hard to break up by means of printed circulars which can not be read or understood.

In the interior of Alaska the bird-nesting grounds are generally far removed from the ordinary routes of travel, as the principal places frequented are the swamps, lakes, and sluggish streams of the lowlands, through which there is no inducement for travel. In fall the interior birds migrate almost as soon as they are capable of flying. By October 1 all waterfowl have left the Yukon drainage.

I have drawn the attention of the framers of the treaty to the unfair treatment of the residents of interior Alaska and the Yukon Territory in providing a close season lasting until September 1. They frankly admit that Alaska and northern Canada should be exempted so as to allow shooting to commence on August 15, but they fear that should they acknowledge their mistake and attempt to amend the treaty the whole measure will be endangered. This seems to me a rather narrow view to take of the situation, for an amendment to a treaty can hardly endanger the treaty itself. Herein lies another unwitting and unintentional hardship worked on northerners through lack of information and direct knowledge.

#### NONMIGRATORY GAME BIRDS.

Ptarmigan and grouse, after practically disappearing from all over the Territory, are reported to have returned in substantially their old numbers in almost every locality. I do not know whether it is more than a coincidence, but rabbits disappeared at the same time

as did the game birds, and now once more rabbits are making their appearance.

Except in the vicinity of towns, game birds are not molested to any great extent, nor is there any danger of their extermination, not even in the case of the ptarmigan on the Aleutian Islands or out in the middle of the Bering Sea, where homes have been set apart for them.

#### GAME WARDENS.

By virtue of the act mentioned, *supra*, the Department of Agriculture has appointed fur wardens for Alaska. The department also has a bird warden. As Alaska is now afflicted with six different species of warden, none of whom can be induced to work in cooperation with the other services, I have recommended in the interest of better service the consolidation of these overlapping activities by placing the game wardens now reporting to the Governor under the Department of Agriculture. I do not believe this will be so effective as consolidating all warden services and placing them under the jurisdiction of the Governor, who is on the spot, but at least the game will have the protection of combined game, bird, and fur wardens, as it should have.

I have been discouraged in obtaining adequate appropriations for wardens and have endeavored by every means in my power to prevail upon Congress to grant the authority, but was successful in obtaining only \$5,000 additional. It seems that on account of the divided authority on game matters between the Governor and the Department of Agriculture, the estimates did not have the support of the department, of which fact I was left in ignorance. In other words, there was poor team work, and so my efforts before Congress were largely wasted.

There should be several times the number of wardens now provided for, equipped with facilities for travel, such as launches, horses, or dog teams; and, should control remain vested in the Department of Agriculture, there should be one responsible chief warden appointed, clothed with all possible authority, whose duty it would be to maintain the service at the highest efficiency.

#### TERRITORIAL BOUNTIES.

While having absolutely no jurisdiction over game or fish laws, in the interest of preserving fish and game for Territorial development, the Legislature of Alaska has enacted two laws providing bounties—one of \$15 for each wolf killed and the other of 50 cents for each eagle killed. During the past fiscal year bounties were collected on 223 wolves and on 2,462 eagles.

The bounty on wolves is not sufficient. This wary animal destroys an enormous amount of game annually, and, could the Territory afford it, the bounty might well be doubled. It is, however, asking a good deal of a none too plethoric treasury to furnish bounty money when all receipts from game and fur go directly into the treasury of the United States. Wolves are reported on the increase.

A noticeable decrease is shown in the number of bounties collected on eagles, showing that eagles are decreasing in number near traveled routes.

Preferable to bounties, experienced hunters should be stationed at places where wolves are the greatest menace, in order to undertake their systematic destruction. I am not in accord with the theory that wolves, by killing off the weaker animals, keep up the physical standard of the herds. Wolves are reported to be following the caribou herds in large numbers. Here is a fine chance to do a constructive piece of work.

#### MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK.

Again I urge that there be an appropriation for the Mount McKinley National Park. The park should have its boundaries definitely marked, and wardens should be established permanently within its borders. The outlines of the park were carefully considered at the time of its creation, by Mr. Charles Sheldon, of the Boone and Crockett Club; Mr. Belmore Browne, of the Camp Fire Club, who has made the ascent of the mountain; and the writer, who prepared the bill. Included in the park are the important breeding grounds and some of the permanent ranges of the nonmigratory herds of woodland caribou, the white sheep, and the giant moose. With the park properly protected there will never be a shortage of game in all the surrounding country. Besides protecting the supply of game, the park will also be a refuge for fur-bearing animals, which have now been woefully depleted on the northern side of the Alaska Range through intensive trapping and the illegal use of poison.

The Mount McKinley National Park is well deserving of Congressional support, not only for the sake of the game but because it contains some of the most glorious scenery in all Alaska, noted for its scenic grandeur. When the Government railroad next year makes the park accessible to the tourist, there will be immediately created a large passenger revenue which should not be overlooked. There should be park officials to take care of this most desirable traffic.



## BIRD AND MAMMAL RESERVES.

At the time of the orgy of withdrawals and reservations in Alaska there were created a large number of bird and mammal reserves which are absolutely unwarranted. I advocate their restoration to the public domain. The following are some of the principal withdrawals:

Yukon Delta Reserve, approximately 20,000 square miles: Made to protect the nesting grounds of the emperor goose. All nesting grounds are now protected under the law and as the goose leaves the reserve in winter, this serves no useful purpose. Laws are unenforced.

Aleutian Islands Reserve, under the joint control of the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, approximately 20,000 square miles: The only reason that I have ever been given for bird protection on this reserve is that there are a number of strange species of ptarmigan inhabiting some of the islands. Laws unenforced.

Bering Sea Reservation: Laws unenforced and disregarded.

Fire Island Reservation:<sup>2</sup> No game on the island and never has been except when a stray moose in severe winters sometimes crosses on the ice from the mainland and gets off again as soon as possible.

Tuxedni, St. Lazaria, Bogoslof, Forrester, Hazy, Chamisso Islands: Principally gull-nesting grounds.<sup>3</sup> Now that the department has granted authority to kill gulls, the grounds serve no useful purpose. To reserve the Bering Sea, Bogoslof, and Chamisso Islands is about as intelligent as it would be to reserve Wrangell Island in the Arctic Ocean.

To enforce the law on any of these reservations will require a force of from 1 to 50 men each. So why make laws which simply discredit all protective laws?

It has been promised me for three years that these reservations would be reduced, but as yet no action has been taken.

## ALASKA HISTORICAL MUSEUM.

This year the collection of the Alaska Historical Museum was put on exhibition to the public in rented quarters in the Arctic Brotherhood Building in Juneau. The Alaska Historical Society has taken charge of the museum, and all its collections become the property of the Territory. An attempt is being made to procure specimens of all varieties of wild life, and to this end the sportsmen of the country who have enjoyed hunting in Alaska are asked to assist. The association is poor and can not afford large expenditures. It

<sup>2</sup> Fire Island was made a military reservation in 1914, when it ceased to be a game sanctuary.

<sup>3</sup> Many species of sea birds, including gulls, nest on these islands.



is hoped that the sportsmens' and conservation societies will show a practical and not altogether academic interest in Alaskan affairs by assisting this most worthy project.

At present the wild-life exhibit consists merely of a number of mounted specimens of birds, heads of the principal hoofed game animals, and a black bear without eyes. The main collection, consisting of articles of native handicraft, while relatively small, is most valuable. Part of the Daniel S. Neuman collection of Eskimo antiquities has been purchased and the rest is shown as a loan collection. There is also an exhibit collected by Lieut. George T. Emmons in the Arctic.

The museum will be of great interest not only to the people of Alaska but also to all visitors to the Territory.

# APPENDIX.

TABLE I.—*Hunting licenses issued during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1920.*

No.	Date issued.	Citizen of—	Fee.
42	July 1, 1919	United States	\$50
43	July 9, 1919	do.	50
44	do.	do.	50
45	July 15, 1919	do.	50
46	do.	do.	50
47	July 17, 1919	do.	50
48	July 28, 1919	do.	50
49	do.	do.	50
50	Aug. 4, 1919	do.	50
51	do.	do.	50
52	do.	do.	50
53	do.	do.	50
54	do.	do.	50
55	do.	do.	50
56	do.	do.	50
57	Aug. 14, 1919	New Zealand	100
58	do.	do.	100
59	Aug. 17, 1919	United States	50
60	do.	do.	50
61	Aug. 22, 1919	do.	50
62	do.	do.	50
63	Aug. 23, 1919	do.	50
64	Aug. 25, 1919	do.	50
65	do.	do.	50
66	do.	Canceled	
67	Apr. 1, 1920	United States	50
68	Apr. 4, 1920	do.	50
69	do.	do.	50
70	do.	do.	50
71	do.	do.	50
72	do.	do.	50
73	Apr. 10, 1920	do.	50
74	Apr. 16, 1920	do.	50
75	do.	do.	50
76	Apr. 21, 1920	do.	50
77	Apr. 22, 1920	do.	50
78	do.	do.	50
79	Apr. 27, 1920	do.	50
80	May 1, 1920	do.	50
81	May 22, 1920	do.	50
82	June 3, 1920	do.	50
83	June 7, 1920	Sweden	100
84	June 14, 1920	United States	50
85	do.	do.	50
86	June 15, 1920	do.	50
87	do.	do.	50
88	June 30, 1920	do.	50
89	do.	do.	50
Total			2,500

TABLE II.—*Special moose-shipping licenses issued during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1920.*

No.	Date issued.	Citizen of—	Fee.
18	Sept. 22, 1919	United States	\$150
19	do.	do.	150
20	Nov. 1, 1919	do.	150
21	do.	do.	150
22	do.	do.	150
Total			750

TABLE III.—General game-shipping licenses issued during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1920.

No.	Date issued.	Game or trophy.	Fee.
173	July 11, 1919	1 brown bear skin.	\$5
174	July 12, 1919	do.	5
175	July 16, 1919	do.	5
176	do.	do.	5
177	do.	do.	5
178	do.	do.	5
179	July 21, 1919	do.	5
180	do.	do.	5
181	July 23, 1919	do.	5
182	July 24, 1919	do.	5
183	do.	do.	5
184	July 28, 1919	do.	5
185	Aug. 7, 1919	do.	5
186	do.	do.	5
187	Aug. 8, 1919	do.	5
188	Aug. 16, 1919	do.	5
189	Aug. 27, 1919	do.	5
190	do.	do.	5
191	do.	do.	5
192	Sept. 3, 1919	1 mountain sheep.	10
193	do.	1 brown bear skin.	5
194	do.	1 mountain sheep.	10
195	do.	1 brown bear skin.	5
196	do.	do.	5
197	Sept. 17, 1919	do.	5
198	Sept. 19, 1919	do.	5
199	do.	do.	5
200	Oct. 2, 1919	1 mountain sheep.	10
201	Oct. 9, 1919	1 mountain goat.	5
202	do.	do.	5
203	Oct. 20, 1919	1 brown bear skin.	5
204	do.	do.	5
205	Nov. 1, 1919	do.	5
206	do.	do.	5
207	do.	do.	5
208	do.	do.	5
209	do.	do.	5
210	do.	do.	5
211	Nov. 7, 1919	do.	5
212	do.	do.	5
213	Nov. 17, 1919	1 deer head.	5
214	Nov. 30, 1919	1 brown bear skin.	5
215	Dec. 10, 1919	do.	5
216	Dec. 13, 1919	do.	5
217	do.	do.	5
218	Dec. 9, 1919	1 deer head.	5
219	Dec. 20, 1919	1 brown bear skin.	5
220	do.	do.	5
221	Jan. 8, 1920	do.	5
222	Jan. 12, 1920	1 mountain sheep.	10
223	Jan. 20, 1920	1 brown bear skin.	5
224	do.	do.	5
225	Feb. 20, 1920	do.	5
226	Mar. 9, 1920	do.	5
227		Canceled.	
228	Apr. 14, 1920	1 brown bear skin.	5
229	do.	1 mountain sheep.	10
230	Apr. 30, 1920	1 brown bear skin.	5
231	May 3, 1920	do.	5
232	May 17, 1920	1 caribou head.	10
233	May 21, 1920	1 brown bear skin.	5
234	do.	do.	5
235	do.	do.	5
236	June 2, 1920	do.	5
237	June 7, 1920	1 mountain goat.	5
238	June 12, 1920	1 brown bear skin.	5
239	June 21, 1920	do.	5
240	do.	do.	5
241	June 29, 1920	do.	5
242	do.	1 moose (killed north of 62°).	40
		2 caribou heads.	
		2 mountain sheep.	
		1 brown bear skin.	
243	June 30, 1920	do.	5
Total.			415

TABLE IV.—*Game or trophies shipped from Alaska for private use during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1920.*<sup>4</sup>

No.	Date of shipment.	Kind and number of game or trophies.	Residence of shipper.
HUNTING LICENSES.			
39	Sept. 4	1 mountain goat head.....	United States.
50	Dec. 7	{ 11 mountain sheep heads, 2 moose heads and capes, 3 caribou heads, and 4 mountain goat heads.	Do.
53			
51	Jan. 12	1 moose head and cape.....	Do.
58	do.	2 mountain sheep heads.....	Do.
61	Nov. 11	1 brown bear hide.....	Do.
62	do.	3 mountain sheep heads.....	Do.
SPECIAL MOOSE-SHIPPIING LICENSES.			
20	Nov. 11	1 moose head and cape.....	United States.
21	do.	do.	Do.
22	do.	do.	Do.
GENERAL GAME-SHIPPIING LICENSES.			
170	July 1	1 brown bear hide.....	United States.
171	do.	do.	Do.
174	Dec. 11	do.	Do.
175	Aug. 8	do.	Do.
176	do.	do.	Do.
182	do.	do.	Do.
183	Aug. 5	do.	Do.
185	Sept. 4	do.	Do.
192	do.	1 mountain sheep head.....	Do.
193	do.	1 brown bear hide.....	Do.
203	Sept. 6	do.	Do.
204	Dec. 11	do.	Do.
205	Nov. 11	do.	Do.
206	do.	do.	Do.
207	do.	do.	Do.
208	do.	do.	Do.
209	do.	do.	Do.
210	do.	do.	Do.
213	Nov. 20	1 deer head.....	Do.
215	Dec. 13	1 grizzly bear hide.....	Do.
219	Dec. 22	1 brown bear hide.....	Do.
221	Jan. 22	do.	Do.
226	Mar. 23	do.	Do.
230	May 18	do.	Do.
238	June 13	do.	Do.

<sup>4</sup> Trophies shipped as baggage or household goods not included.





